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Attorney Docket No.: FL/128

#7/D  
206  
8/23/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Banter et al. )

Serial No.: 09/348,416 )

Filed July 7, 1999 )

For: Acoustic Protective Cover Assembly )

Group Art Unit: 2643  
Examiner: P. Dabney

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231 on August 6, 2002.*

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

*Darlene S. McGrath*  
Darlene S. McGrath

AMENDMENT

*August 6, 2002*  
(date of mailing document)

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 26, 2002, please amend the above-identified patent application, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-3 and 7-23 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Moreover, please amend claims 4, 5, 6, 24, 26 and 28 as follows. A clean version of the remaining claims, including the claims amended below, is attached with this response.

4. (Amended) The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim [1] 6, wherein the assembly further comprises a black color.

5. (Amended) The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim [1] 6, wherein the assembly further comprises an oleophobic treatment.

6. (three times amended) [The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 1,] A sound-transmissive protective cover assembly, consisting essentially of:

(a) at least one microporous membrane having an inner unbonded region and a periphery bonded region; and

(b) at least one adhesive support system,

said at least one membrane being bonded around its periphery to said at least one adhesive support system such that at least a portion of said inner unbonded region of the membrane is exposed to the atmosphere and free to move in response to acoustic energy, said assembly having an instantaneous water entry pressure of at least one meter water column and an overall acoustic transmission loss of no more than 3 dB in the range of frequencies from 300 to 3000 Hz, wherein the assembly further comprises an acoustic gasket; and

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